Trading of spurious drugs

879. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any study in regard to trading of spurious drugs in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to ban the manufacturing of spurious drugs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) The manufacturing and sale of spurious drugs is a clandestine activity. To assess the extent and problem of spurious drugs in the country, a survey under which samples are being drawn from different regions in the country and from different stratum of sales outlets is underway.

(c) and (d) The manufacture and sales of spurious drugs is prohibited under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and is a punishable offence with imprisonment and fine.

Polio cases

880. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of polio cases have been reported in the country during 2007 and so far during 2008 and number of such cases reported from the States of U.P. and Bihar is quiet high;

(b) if so, the number of polio cases reported during 2007 and so far during 2008, State-wise;

(c) whether the reasons for this state of affairs have been evaluated and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to tackle the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) During 2007 a total of 874 cases were reported and in 2008 so far 486 cases have been reported. State-wise cases in 2007 and so far in 2008 are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) Reasons of occurrence of cases are as given below:

- Convergence of a number of risk factors that favors virus transmission and interfere with effectiveness of oral polio vaccine.
- Population immunity threshold needed to stop transmission and sustain cessation in some of the endemic districts is very high.
- Analysis of data suggests that the immunity to WPV1 among young children in some of the endemic districts of Western U.P. decline during the first and second quarter of 2008.